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# **POLISH *TATARKA* ‘*FAGOPYRUM TATARICUM* (L.) GAERTN.’ AND ‘*FAGOPYRUM ESCULENTUM* MOENCH’<sup>1</sup> IN A SLAVIC AND EUROPEAN CONTEXT**

The article deals with the names of two species of plant which have “Tartar” associations in the Polish language. The author is talking about *gryka tatarska*, also known as *gryka tatarka*, i.e. *Fagopyrum tataricum* (L.). Gaertn., known for short as *tatarka* (KLRN), and common buckwheat, i.e. *Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench, syn. *Fagopyrum sagittatum* Gilib. The names for common buckwheat and Tartary buckwheat in Slavic and European languages indicate that both species have eastern origins. These names suggest that Greeks, Tartars and “pagans” in general can take most credit for the spread of these plants. The name *tatarka*, attesting to the fact that the Tartars acted as intermediaries in the spread of buckwheat, first emerged on Polish soil and from there spread to Slovakia, Eastern Moravia in the modern day Czech Republic, to Ukrainian dialects bordering Slovakia, to Hungarian dialects and even to Romanian dialects. It is fairly likely that it was also the source of German names of the type *Taterkorn* and *Tater*.

plant names, semantic motivation, loanwords, calques, languages in contact

It is a well-known fact that plants are assigned names based on their appearance (structure, shape, colour of their flowers, their fragrance, taste, etc.), properties

1 Syn. *Fagopyrum sagittatum* Gilib.

(e.g. medicinal, magical), the place where they grow and their purpose (Wierzbicka 2002: 552). Such a method for classifying plants was first used in Poland by Pawłowski (1974), and later adopted by, e.g., Tokarski (1993: 340–341).<sup>2</sup> According to the latter, the properties of plants that are most important for humans can be divided into three general groups: environmental characteristics (e.g., the time they are in flower, deemed to be the most important for the plant's development, as well as their picking time) physical characteristics and functional properties. According to some researchers of plant names, such as Pelcowa (2001: 100), another major factor that has played a role in the naming of plants is a belief in their extraordinary (bad or good) powers. Also important are the legends associated with plants. Factors that come into play here include religious references and superstitions, as well as various important symbolic connotations.

Taking into account the above-mentioned criteria for a semantic classification of names, as discussed by researchers, the following factors often provide the semantic motivation behind plant names: the appearance of the plant, the place(s) where the plant grows, its properties and purpose, as well as other features of a particular genus or species. Another possible motivating factor, for example, is the origin of a plant, whether factual or alleged (cf. Waniakowa 2012: 68).

The present text focuses on two species of plant which have “Tartar” associations in the Polish language, i.e. which are in some way “Tartar”.<sup>3</sup> The plants in question are *gryka tatarska*, also known as *gryka tatarka*, i.e. *Fagopyrum tataricum* (L.) Gaertn., known for short as *tatarka* (KLRN), and common buckwheat, i.e. *Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench, syn. *Fagopyrum sagittatum* Gilib. The first of these species is an annual plant from the Polygonaceae family, which grows up to 75 cm in height. The leaves are broader than they are in the case of common buckwheat (compare below). Its flowers are inconspicuous and greenish. The fruit is a coarse, triangular nut with gnarled edges and a rounded bottom. *Tatarka* is native to Sichuan, Tibet, Kashmir and Northern Pakistan. In certain parts of Asia and Europe it is a domesticated plant. In Poland it mainly appears as a weed, and is rarely cultivated. Its fruit is used for groats (buckwheat groats) and

- 2 Such a system for classifying names has long been in use in Europe, see, e.g. the monumental work of Marzell (2000) *Wörterbuch der deutschen Pflanzennamen*, the first volume of which was published in 1943 and contains exceptionally rich historical and dialectal material, which is meticulously arranged according to the properties of plants.
- 3 I have chosen this plant because of its name and the motivation for that name, which is directly connected with Professor Marek Stachowski's research interests.

flour. The latter, however, is not suitable for baking (see Podbielkowski, Sudnik-Wójcikowska 2003: 141).

The second species, *Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench (syn. *Fagopyrum sagittatum* Gilib.), i.e. common buckwheat and also known as Japanese buckwheat or silverheel buckwheat, was in the past sometimes known in the Polish language as well as spoke up until the present day as *tatarka*. It is an annual plant from the same Polygonaceae family. It grows up to 60 cm in height; it has heart-shaped leaves and white or pinkish flowers. Its fruit is a triangular, brownish nut. It is native to southern China, where it has been cultivated since the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC.<sup>4</sup> It has been known in Central Europe since the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Its nuts are used to produce groats and flour, although the latter is unsuitable for baking.<sup>5</sup> It is a melliferous, medicinal plant that is also suitable as fodder. It is likewise used as a fertilizer (see Podbielkowski, Sudnik-Wójcikowska 2003: 141–142).

Nitsch and Mrozówna (1955: 86–116)<sup>6</sup> have already written extensively on *tatarka*, mainly treating it as a form of common buckwheat. This is because the focus of their interest were Polish dialectal names, which in the vast majority of cases refer to cultivated species.<sup>7</sup> The authors refer to all the more important names used for buckwheat in Polish dialects, i.e. *tatarka* (also known as *taterka*), *gryka*, *grecka*, *hreczka*, *reczka*, *poganka*, *bukwita* and *litewka*. All these names are noted by Karłowicz (K), with the exception of *tatarka*, which he clearly did not regard as a dialectal name.<sup>8</sup> The two names with the smallest geographical reach are *litewka* and *bukwita*. Karłowicz records the name *litewka* without giving any specific geographical location. *Bukwita* is present in the region of Kashubia and is a loanword from Low Germ. *bôkwêten*, which is a variant of (High) Germ. *Buchweizen*. The name *poganka* is used in Silesia. It is clearly semantically linked to the name *tatarka* (more on this below). The name *hreczka* appears along the

4 The latest research indicates that it was cultivated in South-East Asia several thousand years before Christ (Czikow, Łaptiew 1988: 130).

5 However, in India buckwheat is used to bake bread, while in China and Japan noodles are made from buckwheat flour (Czikow, Łaptiew 1988: 131).

6 The part of the article discussing buckwheat had already appeared at the end of 1929 or the beginning of 1930, cf. References.

7 The authors indicate that users of dialects do not distinguish between different species of buckwheat.

8 The majority of these names have been long established in the Polish language: *tatarka*, *gryka*, *poganka* (together with its variant *pohanka*) and *hreczka* appear in Knapiusz (1621 s.v. *tatarka*).

upper Wieprz and is a borrowing from Ukrainian (first attestation in Strykowski in the 16<sup>th</sup> century [Nitsch, Mrozówna 1955]). In the eastern part of Małopolska it evolved into *reczka*, having lost the voiced anlaut *h-*, while in Podlasie it evolved into *grecka* (more on this in Nitsch, Mrozówna 1955: 87). In Mazovian dialects *gryka* is used, while *tatarka* and its *taterka* variant (in Wielkopolska) mainly appear in Małopolska and Wielkopolska (see below).

The name *gryka*, as the authors (cf. Nitsch, Mrozówna 1955: 88) have observed quite accurately, originates from \**grbka*, a fact which was later confirmed by Sławski: Pol. *gryka* (< Lith. *grikai* (pl.) < Old Ruth. \**grbka*, *greča*, see Old Ruth. \**grbkъ* 'Greek'), the original literal meaning being 'Greek plant', cf. Sławski SEJP s.v.<sup>9</sup> Nitsch and Mrozówna (1955: 88–89) also provide detailed arguments in support of the thesis that Pol. *gryka* is a loanword taken directly from Lithuanian, and did not arrive via any German medium.<sup>10</sup> This view has important consequences: Germ. *Grick*, *Gricken*, *Grücken* and other variants, attested in Prussia from the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century (cf. Grimm DW s.v.), are taken from Polish or Lithuanian (cf. Marzell 2000 2, col. 410).

The first attestations of *gryka* appear relatively late in Polish, i.e. only from the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century (1487, 1490). Later on, *gryka* appears in Mączyński (1564), Knapiesz (1621) and Kluk (1786–1788) (cf. Nitsch, Mrozówna 1955: 89; Spółnik 1990: 20). The name suggests that the plant was brought to the north and west by the Greeks, who, because of their colonies around the Black Sea, came into contact with the invading Mongols, who brought it with them before the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD (cf. Nitsch, Mrozówna 1955: 89). Today, Latv. *griki* denotes the northern limit of this motivation while Rum. *hrișcă* (from Ukrainian) constitutes the southern limit.

The name *tatarka* (along with *taterka*), distributed over a large area of Poland, i.e. both in Wielkopolska and Małopolska, and even in Kociewie (cf. card-index of SGP), indicates that the Tartars are the people who brought *Fagopyrum* to the country. Brückner SEJP (s.v. *Tatarzy*)<sup>11</sup> made this observation in his dictionary.

9 Nitsch and Mrozówna (1955: 88) date Lith. *grikai* at the latest from the 10<sup>th</sup> century, providing logical reasoning based on linguistic rules.

10 Brückner SEJP was mistaken when he believed that both forms, Polish and Lithuanian, came from German.

11 Brückner's dictionary was first published in 1927. The name *tatarka* does not appear in Boryś's etymological dictionary (Boryś SEJP), probably because its word structure is exceptionally transparent and thus its etymology is not problematic.

Nitsch and Mrozówna (1955: 90) point out that this name would have appeared chronologically later, i.e. in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century at the earliest. The first attestations are only made towards the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century (see below), although this is earlier than the name *gryka* (see above).

Steffen (1963: 37–40, 1964: 117–120)<sup>12</sup> also wrote about *tatarka*. His opinion was that the modern Greek name for *gryka*, *μαυροσίταρον*, literally 'black wheat', is a calque of the Tartar name *kara bodaj*. The semantic motivation in this case is allegedly the black colour of the mature *gryka* seed.<sup>13</sup> In turn, according to Steffen (1963: 38), the Polish name *tatarka* (and its variant *taterka*), just like the names of the plant in other languages, e.g. Finn. *tattri* and Est. *tatri*, is motivated by the shape of the seed, i.e. it is quadrangular (it has "four corners"). It is thus a loanword, the original source of which is the folk Gr. \**τέτρι(ov)* pronounced as \**τάτρι(ov)* allegedly from Gr. \**τετραγώνι(ov)* 'that which is quadrilateral'.<sup>14</sup> In this way Steffen does not associate either of the two names for buckwheat he discusses himself with the Tartars. Unfortunately, his views do not accord with what we know in reality (see above).<sup>15</sup>

*Tatarka* as a word referring to buckwheat<sup>16</sup> is attested for the first time in 1385. However, it must have been in use much earlier, since the adjective *tatarczy* 'pertaining to *tatarka* – buckwheat' is recorded in 1383. The ancient and deep roots of *tatarka* in the Polish language are also evident in a second adjective derived from it, namely *tatarczany*, which admittedly was first attested only in 1497, i.e. much later (SStp. s.vv. *tatarka*, *tatarczany*, *tatarczy*). The relatively early attestations of this word are not surprising, because the plant was popular with regard to the groats. The name *tatarka* in SP XVI, according to the citations, also refers to both

12 Steffen also writes about the other Polish name for buckwheat, namely *poganka*. However, its origins (from Gr. *παγγώνιον* 'that which is many-sided', apparently from the shape of the buckwheat seed, which looks like a pyramid on a triangular base – see above), which suggest folk etymology, are not very convincing (cf. Safarewicz 1963: 40). In support of his thesis Steffen cites *polygonum* as a name for buckwheat (Steffen 1963: 37). In actual fact, the name *Polygonum fagopyrum* L. was used.

13 This meaning is recognisable in the names used for buckwheat in several European languages, such as Alb. *grün i zi*, Sp. *trigo muro* and *trigo prêto* as well as Port. *trigo mouro*, which the author claims is a translation of the Greek name (Steffen 1963: 37).

14 Allegedly from Gr. *τετρα-* 'four' and *γωνία* 'corner, angle' (Steffen 1963: 38).

15 In his next article (see Steffen 1964: 117–120), the author unfortunately does not change his opinion and becomes more bogged down in digressions on the theme of Greek forms.

16 For understandable reasons SStp. does not distinguish between species.

of the above-mentioned species of *Fagopyrum*.<sup>17</sup> The case is similar with Knapiusz (1621) and Linde SJP as well as in SW<sup>18</sup> and SWil.<sup>19</sup> However, in the latter case *tatarka* is reported to be an erroneous name for common buckwheat. In modern general Polish, the name *tatarka* only refers to *Fagopyrum tataricum* (L.) Gaertn. (cf. Szymczak SJP), whereas in dialects it covers both species of buckwheat (cf. card-index of SGP). This is undoubtedly a relic of the past. A similar situation in terms of nomenclature prevails in other European languages.

After comparing several names for buckwheat, namely Polish, East Slovak, Hungarian and Germ. *Taterkorn* and *Tatelkorn*, Nitsch and Mrozówna (1955: 90) draw the conclusion that Poland acted as intermediary in the seed's journey to Slovakia, Hungary and Germany. It is important to point out that *tatarka* is not an indigenous name, neither in Slovakia nor in Hungary, and thus in these cases its source may be the Polish language (reaching Hungary via Eastern Slovak dialects), see Spólnik (1990: 61). Hence, even when, as the authors suggest, Polish origin may be postulated for Germ. *Taterkorn* it does not necessarily mean that Poland acted as intermediary in the arrival of buckwheat in Germany. Similarly, the authors compare Pol. *poganka*, Czech and Hung. *pohánka* and *pohanina* and Sloven. *ajda*, *haida* with Germ. *Heidenkorn* and *Heidekorn*. Their claim that Slovenian forms originate from German names is entirely legitimate given the existence of long-term Slovenian-Austrian contacts (see below) as well as the view that German names cannot be the source of any of the other names (for a broader discussion, see Nitsch, Mrozówna 1955: 90, 92).<sup>20</sup> Also fully justifiable is the authors' thesis that Pol. *poganka* (attested for the first time in 1500) that appears in Silesia (see above) is taken from the Czechs, among whom *pohanina* (probably from Lat. *pagana*, *paganica*) is recorded as early as 1416.

17 See [poliarp.wbl.klf.uw.edu.pl/pl/slownik-polszczyzny-XVI-wieku/query](http://poliarp.wbl.klf.uw.edu.pl/pl/slownik-polszczyzny-XVI-wieku/query) (available 30.06.2016).

18 See [poliarp.wbl.klf.uw.edu.pl/pl/slownik-warszawski/query](http://poliarp.wbl.klf.uw.edu.pl/pl/slownik-warszawski/query) (available 30.06.2016).

19 See [eswil.ijp-pan.krakow.pl/index.php](http://eswil.ijp-pan.krakow.pl/index.php) (available 30.06.2016).

20 Nitsch and Mrozówna (1955: 93) suggest straight out that "the name *poganka* may simply be a slightly adjusted form of the Latin word *pagana*, which again looks completely like a free translation from *tatarka*. On the other hand, the southern Germans may have adopted *poganka* from the Czechs, and used this word together with the term translated as *Heidenkorn*, *Heide* etc.". However, such a suggestion, in light of broader historical-comparative research on names used for buckwheat in Europe, appears unsustainable (see below).

In spite of what Nitsch and Mrozówna established (see above) regarding Ruthenian and Lithuanian mediation in the spread of buckwheat, Kluk (1786–1788) writes: “it is believed that it is a little more than three hundred years since the plant passed from Greek and Turkish lands to Italy under the name *frumentum saracenicum*. It then spread out over many countries.” It is undoubtedly true that buckwheat made its way to Europe from Asia. It is also obvious that the plant was spread throughout Europe by the Greeks and in general Muslims, referred to as Saracens (Lat. *Saraceni*), or pagans (Lat. *pāgāni*). In some parts of Europe (including the territory of Poland) it was the Tartars who introduced the botanical genus of *Fagopyrum*. Nitsch and Mrozówna (1955: 91–93) contest the viewpoint supported by German scholars of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that much of Europe was indebted to the Germans for buckwheat, claiming that it reached Germany from Venice, and had made its way to the latter by sea. It is important to emphasise here that the names for buckwheat only appear in German documents for the first time in the 15<sup>th</sup> century (see Marzell 2000 2, col. 405), whereas they are first attested in Polish documents in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

It is worth here taking a look at the names used for buckwheat in Slavic and European languages. The medieval Latin names for buckwheat in Poland were as follows: *fagotriticum*,<sup>21</sup> *frumentum paganicum* (1385), *pagana*, *paganca*, *paganica* (1434), *panicum*, *pannicum*, *panicum* (also in the basic meaning of ‘millet’<sup>22</sup>) (SŁŚ s.vv. *fagotriticum*, *frumentum*, *pagana*, *paganica*, *panicum*; Symb. 155). Other pre-Linnaeus Latin names for buckwheat (outside Poland) are given by Marzell (2000 2, cols. 405–406): *frumentum sarracenicum*, *frumentum vaccinum*, *fagopyrum*, *fegopyrum*, *ocymum cereale*, *turcicum frumentum*, *tragopyron*. The majority of these served as the basis for loanwords and a source of calques in many European languages.

According to Marzell (2000 2, col. 405), the name *fagopyrum* is first attested in 1566 and is a Latin-Greek calque on the Low German name for buckwheat, namely *Bukweten* (High German equivalent is *Buchweizen*, where *Buche* ‘beech’, *Weizen* ‘wheat’), where Lat. *fāgus* ‘beech’ and Gr. *πυρός* ‘wheat’. The form *fagopyrum* is the Latin generic name for buckwheat in scientific nomenclature, first as *Fagopyrum vulgo* (instead of *Fagotriticum* and the even earlier *Frumentum saracenicum*). Later, Linnaeus took over this term and included it in his classification under the name *Polygonum fagopyrum* (more: Genaust 2005: 243–244).

21 The calque of Germ. *Buchweizen*.

22 Also recorded by André (1956: 237).

Low Germ. *Buweten* is recorded for the first time in 1436 in Meklemburg and is the earliest attested German name for buckwheat with this structural form. From here the name spread not only to German areas, but also to the north, the west and the east, see, e.g. Du. *boekweit*, *bokkel*, *boekent*, Fr. *bouquette*, *blé bucail* (1575) (as a loanword), Engl. *buckwheat* (1548),<sup>23</sup> *bockwheat* (1557), Dan. *boghvede* (16<sup>th</sup> century), Swed. *bohvete* (1538) and Kash. *bukwita* (cf. Marzell 2000 2, cols. 406–407).

The German name for buckwheat *Heidekorn* is attested in Lexer (1869–1878: 1208) as MHG. *heiden-korn* and later widely disseminated in areas where German was spoken (cf. Marzell 2000 2, cols. 407–408). It appears to be a calque on the medieval Latin names *frumentum saracenicum*, *frumentum sarracenorum* and others. From here we also obtain the derivatives *Heiden*, *Heide*, *Heydel*, *Hadel* and many others (cf. Marzell 2000 2, cols. 407–408). As can be seen, German names are connected with Germ. *Heide* ‘pagan’.

The following are the Slavic names for common buckwheat, i.e. *Fagopyrum esculentum* Moench.:

- Sloven. *ajda*, High Sorb. *hejduška* (older and dialectal names: *hejda*, *hejduš*, *hejduša*<sup>24</sup>), Low Sorb. *hejduša*, *hejda* (older and dialectal names: *hejdyš*, *hejdyša*) – loanwords from German.<sup>25</sup> The Slovenian name is first attested in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It comes from Austrian Germ. *Heiden* (< MHG. *heiden* ‘Fagopyrum’), see Snoj SES (s.v. *ajda*), the Sorbian names also from Germ. *Heide* ‘buckwheat’, expanded by means of suitable suffixes (Schuster-Šewc HEW s.v. *hejduška*).
- Croat. *heljda*,<sup>26</sup> Serb. *хелџа* (also *елџа*), Bos. *heljda*, Mac. *хелџа*, Bulg. *елџа* (dialectal names: *хѣлџа*, *ѣлџа*, see also Achtarov 1939: 244) – loanwords from Turk. *helda* ‘frumentum sarracenicum, Heidekorn’, perhaps from Pers. *halda* ‘frumentum saracenicum’ (cf. e.g. BER s.v. *елџа*).

23 The English name is either a borrowing from MDu. *boecweite*, or is a structural calque of the Dutch name, because in English dialects there is the word *buck* ‘beech’.

24 Radyserb-Wjela (1909: 15) identifies the forms *hejda*, *hejduš* and *hejduška* in Sorbian language.

25 Buffa (1972: 289) has also noted the forms *hejduša* and *hejduše* from Slovak, while Machek (1954: 88) and Kosik (1941: 90) have both also recorded the form *hejduše* in the Czech language.

26 Sugar HBI (s.vv.) reports the following Croatian forms: *heljda*, *jelda*, *jeljda*, *helda*, *elda*, *elja* and *elsa*. Simonović BR (195) reports these same forms in Serbian.



- Czech *pohanka* (cf. Machek 1954: 88), Slov. *pohánka* (first attested in Slovak in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Králik SESS s.v.) – both forms are connected with *pohan* 'pagan', and as with other names for *Fagopyrum* they refer to the Pagan peoples who introduced buckwheat throughout Europe.
- Pol. *gryka* (a loanword from Lithuanian, see above), Bel. *зрэчка*, Ukr. *зречка* and Rus. *зречуха* – these names testify to the fact that the Greeks were responsible for the spread of *Fagopyrum*; all etymological dictionaries of East Slavic languages are in agreement on this fact.
- Low Sorb. *pšusnica* – originates from Proto-Slav. \**proso* 'millet'; other forms include *prosnica*, *pšosnica*; word structure analogous to \**pŕŕšenica* 'wheat' (cf. Schuster-Šewc HEW s.v.).

One of the maps from volume 4 of the *Общеславянский лингвистический атлас* (= *Slavic Linguistic Atlas*) from the lexical-morphological series that is devoted to *Fagopyrum* (cf. OLA 4, map 56 [authors: A. Ferencíková and A. Habovštiak]) sheds interesting light on Slavic dialectal names for buckwheat. The names found on the map can be divided into several groups:

1. names of the type *greč-a*,<sup>27</sup> *greč-ъk-a*, *greč-in-a*, *greč-iχ-a*, *greč-uχ-a* – appearing in dialects of East Slavic languages, in dialects from South-East Poland (from Ukrainian) and among persons displaced from the southeastern borderlands; also, *greč-ъk-a* in East Slovak dialects (from Ukrainian),<sup>28</sup> and *greč-iχ-a*<sup>29</sup> from Russian in Bulgarian dialects (cf. ESUM s.v. *зречка*).<sup>30</sup>
2. *pogan-ъk-a* – present in Czech dialects, West and Central Slovak dialects, in Ukrainian dialects<sup>31</sup> as well as in Polish Silesian dialects.
3. *tatar-ъk-a* – according to the map, this is present in Polish dialects from the south-east, extends through West Poland and reaches the northwest of the country; moreover, it appears in the Czech dialects of East Moravia (cf. Machek 1954: 88; Kosík 1941: 90), in East Slovak dialects (cf. Buffa 1972: 373) as well as in the Ukrainian dialects bordering with East Slovak dialects (see Makowiecki 1936: 149).

27 The notation is taken from OLA 4.

28 Buffa (1972: 292) notes the Slovak form *hřečka* from Reuss (1853) and Machek (1954: 88) confirms the Slovak dialectal form *hřečka*.

29 Achtarov (1939: 244) adds the form *зречука*.

30 The forms *greczycha*, *hreczka* and *hryczka* are recorded in Polish (SWil), while Majewski SN (s.vv.) includes the following forms: *greczka*, *gryczka* and *reczka*.

31 Makowiecki (1936: 149) notes the form *pohanka* in Ukrainian dialects.

4. *lit-ɔv-ɔk-a* – appears exclusively in Kashubian dialects (see above).
5. *dik-uš-a* – appears sporadically in Russian dialects.<sup>32</sup>

Besides this, the authors of the map identify loanwords originating from languages other than Slavic:

1. (*grik*)-*a*<sup>33</sup> – a loanword from Lithuanian (see above),<sup>34</sup> which according to the OLA 4 map is present in Polish dialects, mainly in northeastern and in northwestern extremes of the Baltic coast.
2. (*hajd*)-*a*, (*hajd*)-*in-a* – a borrowing from Germ. *Heiden* (see above),<sup>35</sup> present in Slovenian dialects (cf. Marzell 2000 2, col. 408), also extending beyond the borders of Slovenia into Austria and Hungary, as well as in Croatian dialects in the north<sup>36</sup> and in Slovak dialects, where it appears in the form of *hajdina* (cf. Buffa 1972: 289).<sup>37</sup>
3. (*held*)-*a* – a borrowing from Turk. *helda* (see above), appearing in the dialects of Bosnia and Hercegovina, as well as in Eastern Croatia and Western Serbia.
4. (*bukvit*)-*a* – a loanword from Low Germ. *bōkvēten*, present in Kashubian dialects.
5. (*köleş*)-*v*, (*köleş*)-*kaš-a* – a loanword from Hung. *köles* ‘millet’, used in the Slovak dialects in Hungary.

Moreover, the map shows that no dialectal names for buckwheat are recorded in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Northern Greece<sup>38</sup> and South-Eastern Serbia. Among the Slavic dialectal names taken into account in it, several were motivated by the supposed origin of *Fagopyrum*, namely *greč-a*, *greč-ɔk-a*, *greč-in-a*, *greč-iɣ-a*, *greč-uɣ-a*, (*grik*)-*a*, *tatar-ɔk-a*, *lit-ɔv-ɔk-a*, *pogan-ɔk-a*, *ajda*, (*hajd*)-*a*, (*hajd*)-*in-a*, *hejduška* and the Slovenian name from Italy, (*saražin*)-*ɔ* under Romance influence, see, MLat. *granum saracenum* ‘*Fagopyrum*’ (cf. OLA 4, map 56).

- 32 Annenkov (1878: 143) records this name both for common buckwheat and for tartary buckwheat.
- 33 The notation for loanword forms according to OLA 4 conventions.
- 34 The map’s authors deviate from the standard view and regard this name as a loanword from the East German *Gricke*.
- 35 The authors of the OLA 4 map assume, not entirely accurately, that these names originate from Germ. *Heidekorn* ‘*Fagopyrum*’.
- 36 Šugar HBI (s.vv.) reports the following Croatian forms: *hâida* i *hajdina*.
- 37 The forms *xajda* and *xajduha* are also noted in Serbian dialects, see Pažderski (2009: 307) and Simonović BR (195).
- 38 The map only covers a fragment of Northern Greece.

One fact we found to be extremely important is that analysis of the map shows that *tatarka* is an indigenous Polish name and that it was able to spread from Poland into East Slovak dialects and from there into Ukrainian dialects and further on to the south and east, which confirms one of the theses proposed by Nitsch and Mrozówna (1955, see above).

The names for common buckwheat used in European languages can be divided into those which do not include references to the origin of the species and those which indicate where the species comes from.<sup>39</sup> The following are examples of names (excluding the Slavic ones) which do not contain references to the origin of the species: Germ. *echter (gemeiner) Buchweizen*, Du. *boekweit*, Swed. *bovete*, and Sp. *alforfón*.

Besides the Slavic ones mentioned above, there are quite a few names that allude to the origin of common buckwheat. They can be divided according to the type of references these names contain. They include the following:

- Greek references: Lith. *sėjamasis grikis*, Latv. *sējas griķi*, Germ. *Gricken*, Rum. *hrișcă*, Hung. *haricska* (Marzell 2000 2, col. 410);
- Tartar references: Germ. *Tater*, *Tatelnkorn*, Low Germ. *Tadder*, Dan. *tadder* (1700), *tadderhorn* (1863), Rum. *tătarcă*, Hung. *tatárka*, Finn. *tattari* (Marzell 2000 2, cols. 409–410), Est. *tattar*, *tatricat*;<sup>40</sup>
- Turkish references: Germ. *Türchskorn* (1574), Dan. *tyrkisk korn* (1798), Fr. *blé de Turquie* (16<sup>th</sup> century), Sp. *grano turco* (cf. Marzell 2000 2, col. 409);
- Muslim references: Germ. *Heidekorn*, Fr. (*blé*) *sarrasin*, Sp. *trigo sarraceno*, Port. *trigo-sarraceno*, *trigo-mourisco*, It. *grano saraceno*, Germ. (Lower Austria) *Srasn* (1889), Engl. *sarazin corn* (1687), *sarazin* (1840) (cf. Marzell 2000 2, col. 409), Hung. *pohánka* (from Slovak), *hajdina* (from South Slavic languages);
- other: Germ. *Franzweizen*, Engl. *french wheat* (1597), Du. *fransche boekweit* (cf. Marzell 2000 2, col. 409), Mac. *јапонска елда*.

As can be seen from above, some names allude not to the country of origin of the plant, but rather to the country or people that mediated in the spread of buckwheat cultivation. Worthy of note are Rum. *tătarcă* and Hung. *tatárka*, which attest to the fact that Pol. *tatarka* extended far (via Slovak and Ukrainian mediation, see above) to the south and east. If we assume that this is also the source

39 Obviously, the issue at stake is not the actual origin of the plant species, but what the person who first bestowed that name on it believed was its origin.

40 Estonian names taken from Annenkov (1878: 143).

of such German names as *Tater* and *Taterkorn*, then its area of influence is quite considerable.

Analysis of the European reach of different names for common buckwheat and their forms also reveals the relatively widespread use of the originally Czech name *pohanka* and the considerable influence of the Ukrainian form *зречка*. It is also important to note, bearing in mind the Slavic names discussed above, the considerable territorial range of those names alluding to Greek, Tartar and general Muslim mediation in the spread of buckwheat.

The situation is quite similar with Tartary buckwheat, i.e. *Fagopyrum tataricum* (L.) Gaertn., since the majority of names are motivated by the origin of the plant. The following are examples of names referring to the origins of the plant species: Engl. *Tartary buckwheat*, *Tartarian buckwheat*, Germ. *tatarischer Buchweizen*, *Tataren-Buchweizen*, Sp. *tartaria alforfón*, Fr. *sarrasin de Tartarie*, Du. *tataarsche boekweit*, Dan. *tatarisk boghvede* (1796), Swed. *tatariskt bohvete*, It. *grano saraceno di Tartaria*, Lith. *totorinis grikas* (Marzell 2000 2, col. 412), Pol. *gryka tatarka*, *tatarka*, *tatarka sybirska*,<sup>41</sup> Czech *pohanka tatarská*, Czech. dial. *tatarka*, *tatarčisko*, *tatarské zrní* (Rystonová 2007: 419), Slov. *pohánka tatárska*, Sloven. *tatarska ajda*, Mac. *татарска елда*, Rus. *зречуха татáрская*, Bel. *татáрская зречка*, Ukr. *hrečka tatarka*, *hrečka tatarska*, *tatarka*<sup>42</sup> and Serb. *татарска елда*, *татарска хельда* (Simonović BR 195). Vajs (2003: 378) cites two Croatian forms from 1778, i.e. *tatarinka* and *hajdina tatarska*, although it is not known whether they refer to Tartary buckwheat or to common buckwheat.

In some languages Tartary buckwheat connotes origin different from Tartar (most commonly Siberian). These include: Swed. *siberisk bokhvete* (Linnaeus, 1744) (Marzell 2000 2, col. 411), *sibiriskt bovete*, Engl. *India buckwheat*, *India wheat*, Ukr. *hrečka sibirijiska*, *hrečka sybirska*,<sup>43</sup> Serb. *сибирска елда* (Simonović BR 195), Du. *franse boekweit*, Germ. *sibirischer Buchweizen* (1781), Dan. *sibirisk boghvede*, *sibirisk hvede* (1798), Fr. *sibéri*, *sarrasin de Sibérie*, It. *formentù di Siberia* (Marzell 2000 2, col. 411).

The above comparison of sample European names for Tartar buckwheat shows that in most cases they refer to the Tartars as the people who mediated in the spread of this plant species. This is dictated most clearly by its scientific Latin

41 The last name is reported by Majewski SN (vol. 2 s.v. *Polygonum tataricum*), taken from Rostafiński (Symb).

42 Ukrainian names based on Makowiecki (1936: 150).

43 Ukrainian names based on Makowiecki (1936: 150).

name (attestations of forms are generally late). Some of the names allude to Siberia as the area where the species is most widespread.

## Conclusions

The names for common buckwheat and Tartary buckwheat in Slavic and European languages indicate that both species have eastern origins. These names suggest that Greeks, Tartars and “pagans” in general can take most credit for the spread of these plants.

The name *tatarka*, attesting to the fact that the Tartars acted as intermediaries in the spread of buckwheat, first emerged on Polish soil and from there spread to Slovakia, Eastern Moravia in modern-day Czech Republic, to Ukrainian dialects bordering Slovakia, to Hungarian dialects and even to Romanian dialects. It is fairly likely that it was also the source of German names of the type *Taterkorn* and *Tater*.

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